REMARKS

Claim 1 calls for storing data in a memory array at different densities per cell. Further, it calls for implementing error correction depending on the density of data storage.

The cited reference to Gregori talks about a multi-level memory (ML). He also talks, in the paragraph above Section III on page 752, about the case where ML memories work at variable number of bits per cell. He there explains that the requested error correction capability must be determined for the operating mode with the worst cell error probability (i.e. the operating mode with the highest number of bits per cell). Thus, Gregori is explicit that he does not change the error correction capability depending on the number of bits per cell. Instead, he determines the worst case and sets that as the default regardless of the number of bits per cell. Therefore, clearly, Gregori cannot teach the claimed invention.
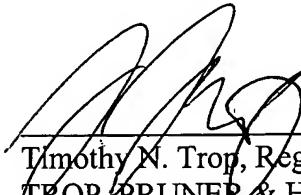
This is further confirmed in Figure 3 and the material cited on page 754. The input transcoder receives the input c. It also receives a 4-ary/16-ary source word and converts it to a 16-ary source word. The error correction though is not carried out until later, as indicated in the next paragraph. On the basis of the 36 16-ary digit word, the decoder, all the way in the right column of Figure 3, actually does the error coding. All the block with the c input does is convert everything to a 16-ary source word. Thus, the source word is the same regardless of the number of bits per cell. This has no effect on error correction and is simply conforming to a standard value prior to error correction. This is completely consistent with the language previously discussed on page 752. As described earlier, the error correction code simply takes the worst case and applies that across the board.

Therefore, reconsideration is requested with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

On the same basis, reconsideration is requested for the rejection of claim 15. Likewise, reconsideration is requested with respect to claim 29 and claim 38.

Respectfully submitted,

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